

critical digest



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Sept 26, 1960 Vol XII No 27 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year-Published 52 weeks a year \$25 per year

This Week in NYC

Richard Rodgers announced that he will experiment writing both words and music for three new songs in the 20th Century Fox remake of "State Fair". If successful he may consider doing both words and music for a Broadway show. If the experiment does not work out he then will find new collaborators for Broadway shows, each picked for a particular show because of his particular style.

Plays

Vintage '60 closed after 8 performances. Originally slated to fold after its second showing it was continued in hope that it might catch on, but first week's gross was only \$14,000. H. M. S. Pinafore to move to Atkinson Theatre following five week run at Phoenix concluded Oct 27. Five Finger Exercise closes next week to open national tour in Philadelphia Oct 3. Camelot opening moved forward to Nov 19 at Majestic. The Music Man will move Oct 17 to Broadway Theatre. White Alice new melodrama by James Clavell which was due Oct 24 at Alvin postponed until Jan. West Side Story to move to Alvin Oct 24.

Directors

Herbert Berghof to direct The Gift Horse new play by Albert Lewis and Burt Styler which John Lotas will present in Feb. Cyril Ritchard to direct and star in The Happiest Girl in World new E Y Harburg-Fred Saily-Henry Myers musical to be presented by Lee Guber in Mar.

Players

Jackie Gleason, Take Me Along, did not appear in last week's two Sat performances due to illness. Barbara O'Neil and Helena Carroll to be featured in Little Moon of Alban. Staats Cotsworth left rehearsals of Drums Under the Window to join Advise and Consent. H F Green left Fiorello! to join Wildcat. Rosemary Murphy signed for Period of Adjustment. 7 year old John Megnato appear in All the Way Home. Sasha von Scherler signed for The Rape of the Belt. Claudette Colbert to portray Mrs Brooks Atkinson in Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe, adaptation of Mrs Atkinson's "Over at Uncle Joe's" by Howard Teichmann. Eugene Ionasco due in NY Nov 1 to discuss production plans for Rhinoceros.

NYC Calendar

Christopher's Wonders-Maidman
9/26. Branz Bryan, Jr presents Milbourne Christopher and his company in an illusion show for limited two week run.

Farewell, Farewell Eugene-Hayes
9/27. Ronald Rawson presents new comedy by John Vari-Rodney Ackland directed by Ronald Winston, with Margaret Ruthford, Mildred Dunnock, Leueen MacGrath. Originally presented by Rawson at East Hampton, NY and London.

Greenwich Village, USA-I Sheridan
Sq 9/28. Allen Hodshire presents a new revue with sketches by Frank Gehrecke music and lyrics by Jeanne Barge, staged by Burke McHugh.

Irma La Douce-Plymouth 9/29.
David Merrick presents English production and adaptation of French musical hit. English book and lyrics by Julian More, adapted from French by Alexandre Breffort. Staged by Peter Brook with English cast members Elizabeth Seal, Clive Revill, Keith Mitchell.

A Delightful Season- Gramercy
Arts 9/29. New Enterprises Co presents new musical by Donald Allan Clayton, based on Wilde's "Lady Windemere's Fan" directed by Bill Butler with Joan Copeland, Karen Thorsell, Nick Todd.

Drama Desk

Whitney Balliett, jazz reviewer, will file Off Broadway notices this season for New Yorker, replacing Donald Malcolm who returns to book dept. McClain, Journal American, filing daily "drama review" on UN Assembly sessions.

Theatre TV Notes

Peter Pan live revival production starring Mary Martin slated for Dec on NBC. "The Gershwin Years" tribute narrated by Moss Hart, based on book of same title by Edward Jablonski-Lawrence Stewart will be presented by Leland Hayward Jan 8 on CBS. Hayward may also present TV version of A Thurbur Carnival starring James Stewart later this season on CBS. NBC Shangri-La on Hall of Fame Oct 24 to feature Marisa Pavan, Gene Nelson, Richard Basehart, Helen Gallagher, Alice Ghostley.

Off Broadway

4th St Theatre production of Ibsen's When We Dead Awaken due Oct 3 cancelled after Franchot Tone left cast in disagreement with producer-director David Ross. Actor stated he had expected to appear in "composite" version of play. Ross now plans to open his Ibsen cycle in Nov with Hedda Gabler starring Mai Zetterling.

Deep Are the Roots moved its debut date to Oct 3. Man and Superman closed at Jan Hus after 49 performances.

Behind the Wall a new play by Kenneth Graham concerning children in a Polish ghetto will be presented Oct 31 at Jan Hus by Amnon Kabatchnick who also will direct. The Shoemaker and the Peddler musical drama based on Sacco-Vanzetti case now due Oct 14 at East 74th St with Anita Darian, Jose Duval, Elinor Miller, James Bosotina.

Theatre Film Notes

Gypsy film rights acquired by Warner Bros who are seeking Judy Holliday for the lead. Alec Guinness to co-star with Rosalind Russell in film version of Five Finger Exercise. Gwen Verdon, recovered from a recent leg operation, will star in Redhead film to start in Jan.

Theatre Book Notes

"The Play's The Thing" a manual of playwriting by Lawrence Langer to be published Sept 30 by G P Putnam's Sons.

Theatre Ad Notes

A Country Scandal Times display ad offers 50c reduction on \$2.50 seats to mail order customers.

Legal Dept

Stanley Holloway will sing material he originated in My Fair Lady in his new one man revue Laughs and Other Events despite fact that co-producer Herman Levin has not yet granted permission and may sue. Co-author's L Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe have given their approval and are urging Levin to do the same.

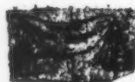
((Late News & Reviews- Supplement))



The Hostage-Cort 9/20- 4 pro - Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 con- Times, News, Journal American- filed on new play by Brendan Behan, staged by Joan Littlewood, presented by Leonard Field-Caroline Burke Swann with original British London Workshop cast members- Alfred Lynch, Maxwell Shaw, Avis Bunnage, Glynn Edwards. All agreed acting was of top quality, divergence of opinion on the quality of the writing ranged from three raves to one outright panning. Kerr, Herald Tribune, cheered for the sassy play, which may well be self indulgent, but which makes for a wild night and a welcome one. Behan, Kerr continued, is an astonishing man of theatre, and the direction he praised as beautiful work, the cast members giving glib jewels of portraiture. Gilbert, Mirror, enjoyed whopping hunk of earthy entertainment with astute direction and first rate performances in play that may even serve as a serio-comic morality show. Watts, Post, applauded play brimming with magnificent exuberance, wild, unruly, scornful, satirical and mocking- a kind of savagely disorderly vaudeville show, staged with exuberance that matches author's and acted in the proper spirit. Aston, WTS, loved the enchanting entertainment, grand sport which has been expanded and updated since he saw it in London. Dissenters found some funny and worthwhile items, but generally agreed that much of play lacked construction and/or was in bad taste. Taubman, Times, tabbed it organized chaos, a grab-bag of wonderful and dreadful prizes by an author of immense talent who seems to spew on it more than use it with a purpose. Times aisle-sitter could only recommend it for those willing to shuttle between delight and distasteful. Chapman, News, feared that though play was often madly funny and played by a colorful company, it is a ramshackle affair which wore itself and him out before its end. McClain, Journal American, panned proceedings as a series of soiled vignettes with atrocious language, no plausible point and some of the funniest remarks heard late and loaded in Third Ave saloons.

Here Come the Clowns- Actors Playhouse 9/19. 3 pro- Times, Post, Journal American- and 2 con- Herald Tribune, World Telegram & Sun- filed on revival of 1938 Philip Barry drama presented by Quartet Productions, staged by Mark Schoenberg, with Robert Mandan, Alan Bergmann, Michael Dunn, and Donald Gantry. Affirmative voters approved fine portrayals by majority of young cast in the difficult, moving allegory, while negative voters felt cast as a whole were not up to the play's problems. Taubman, Times, applauded production as an impressive attempt to be worthy of Barry's lofty aspirations, the staging taking advantage of the vivid dramatic scenes and with Bergmann and Mandan especially giving admirable performances. Watts, Post, noted that editing of the ending has not helped the script, still Barry's finest play, moving, distinguished, beautiful with the performances reasonably satisfactory. McClain, Journal American, praised the tip-top revival of Barry's most ambitious and searching play, done with good taste by an intelligent group. Negative side headed by Kerr, Herald Tribune, who felt the staging and acting was uneven, except for Dunn, a dwarf who acts the blue blazes out of everyone else on the premises. Most of the cast seem to splash around too much, Kerr complained, in a play that needs all the stability it can round up. Aston, WTS, thought cast proved primarily they were playing over their heads with not much range in their voices and with a lack of zip to their good intentions.

Three Short Yeats Plays- Living Theatre 9/19 & 9/26. Funke, Times, recommended special Mon evening presentation of three W B Yeats' short plays, each in its way indicating intelligence at work. Staged by Lawrence Kornfield and Geraldine Lust they were presented for the two Mon performances only. Times reviewer suggested appeal was limited to students and admirers of Yeats only, for others without a knowledge of the Irish author's intentions would probably be very lost.



BRENDAN BEHAN considered his opening night reviews on The Hostage "all right" he told Borsky, Journal American... As a playwright he has depths of seriousness, sensitivity, tenderness and erudition, not easy to dredge up from the self-created legend, reports Gelb, Times... Behan believes a great deal of what he says, even though it is often contradictory and deliberately shocking, even his outrageous buffoonery springs from an earnest desire to make people laugh in a world that he believes takes itself too seriously... Playwright borrowed a line from The Connection, he told Ross, Herald Tribune. "That's how it is man, that's how it is."

MILBOURNE CHRISTOPHER, Christopher's Wonders, blames TV for the fact that the public sees few magicians, he told Crosby, Herald Tribune. His "illusion" show will be the first complete magic production in NYC since 1940 when Dante appeared at the Morosco.

MARTIN TAHSE, producer of Laughs and Other Events as well as many road tours, thinks US theatre stars are lazy, he told Cleaves, World Telegram & Sun. Producer thinks the road could be revived. Stars who are reluctant to go on tours are foolish and ultimately cutting their own throats by not making themselves known to the hinterlands. It is the out-of-town audiences which keep the NY shows running four and five years. No star ever got any better waiting around between \$200,000 films.

PETER GLENVILLE, director of Becket, is a methodical director, rather than a Method one, who doesn't believe in leaving anything up to an actor except a kind of broad conception of the character he's playing, he told Watt, News, Laurence Olivier, of course, is the exception to the rule. Glenville thinks the current Anouilh play is the French author's best.

JOAN LITTLEWOOD, director of The Hostage, is puzzled over whether the Behan production was using the right Americanisms in the topical references. She fears they are still not American enough, she told Little, Herald Tribune.

JACOB BEN AMI-, The Tenth Man, in his first Broadway hit after 39 years in NY theatre, blames this fact on the feeling that he has been too choosy in his roles, he told Radosta, Times. Acting is ignoble unless you do really the fine things. An actor and director in NY's "fine" Yiddish Theatre, his first role on Broadway was in 1921 in The Idle Inn.

STEWART CHANEY, set designer for The 49th Cousin, started work on his current show in early July, read the play, then thought about it for a couple of weeks, then drew up a sketch of the set, he told Lyle, Herald Tribune. The important thing for the designer is to capture the atmosphere, what is right about the play, what will reveal the life of the people in it.

LYLAH TIFFANY, 81 year old accordion player whose stand is outside Carnegie Hall, will make her Broadway debut as a 102 year old great-great grandmother in All the Way Home, reports Gelb, Times. She will continue her street playing activities until rehearsals start Oct 15. A former singing teacher she has written 1000 unpublished songs and 50 unproduced plays.





OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community---- Summer

Sept 26, 1960 Vol XII No 27 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest" 139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894-\$25 per year for full "CD"Service

College Theatre

Carnegie Tech College of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh, will expand its one year old Opera Workshop program this year to include a full scale production with orchestra in the spring and a smaller work at the end of the first term. Karl Kritz and James de Blasis are co-directors.

Community Theatres

Oct 11-16 named as NY State Community Theatre Week by Gov Nelson Rockefeller who stated that the growing interest in community theatres was a development to be encouraged.

L. I. Gelfand named administrator for Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis. Citizens Committee headed by John Cowles, Jr conducting campaign to raise the \$900,000 still required to open the new repertory playhouse next year.

A Waltz in the Afternoon, a new drama by Jason Miller will be tried out Dec 8 at Dallas Theatre Center.

Guest artists of star calibre for local college and community theatres suggested by Griffin, Times as a vital way to make these 5000 theatres grow. Such stars as Judith Anderson or Lunt and Fontanne appearing in classics with university casts would prove invaluable experience to the young actors.

Award Dept

Arts of the Theatre Foundation granted \$2000 awards spread over a 12 month period to two NY resident playwrights, Herbert Boland, Battle Dream, and Louis Adelman, Dressed in Clean Clothes. 122 scripts entered in 7th annual contest in memory of late literary agent Phyllis Anderson. Judges included --Lee Strassberg, Herman Shumlin, John Gassner, Robert Whitehead.



Winter Repertory

Beverly Hills, Calif, Playhouse acquired by Robert Gist on a seven year lease. TV director will present experimental plays with company who has been studying in his workshop for the past year. A subscription program will be set up, and the first production is slated for Oct.

Summer Playhouses

Lake Luzerne, NY Playhouse will expand next summer to include a second building containing a restaurant and a cocktail lounge, George Patrick producer. During winter house, will show motion pictures on weekends.

Framingham, Mass Music Circus tent wrecked in Hurricane Donna storm, cancelling second week of South Pacific holdover run starring Howard Keel.

Joint management of Westport, Conn. Country Playhouse, and Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ by Henry Weinstein-Laurence Feldman-Frank Carrington reported a success with a gross more than half a million. Other theatres may join next summer.

Road Tours

Once Upon a Mattress bus and truck tour of 32 weeks playing 108 cities presented by National Phoenix Theatre will star Imogene Coca and Edward Everett Horton. National tour of bigger cities presented by S Hurok is under way presently in Chicago with Dody Dorn and Buster Keaton. A second national company presented by Broadway Theatre Alliance will also be presented soon.

London

Mister Johnson, Norman Rosten's adaptation of the Joyce Cary novel originally presented on Broadway will be directed and produced by Frith Banbury Sept 29 at Lyric Hammersmith... The Last Joke new play by Enid Bagnold to be presented by H M Tennent-Irene Mayer Selznick Sept 28 at Phoenix with John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, Anna Massey, Robert Flemyng, Ernest Thesiger... Mr Burke, MP new play by Gerald From to be presented Oct 6 at Mermaid, first original play in the new theatre... Toys in the Attic will be presented in Nov at Piccadilly.

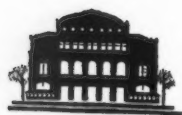
Calendar- Tryouts

Camelot-Toronto, O'Keefe 10/1
Face of a Hero- Philadelphia-Walnut 9/19-
Laughs & Other Events- Toronto-Royal Alexandria 9/26
Laurette- New Haven- Shubert 9/24
Taste of Honey- Cincinnati-Shubert 9/22
Tenderloin- Boston 9/19
Unsinkable Molly Brown-Philadelphia 9/26.
The Wall- Philadelphia-Forrest 9/19

Calendar- Current Tours

American Shakespeare Festival- Boston-Colonial 9/26.
Andersonville Trial -Norfolk, Center 9/28-9/30.
Best Man- San Francisco-Alcazar 9/19
Destry Rides Again- Los Angeles Philharmonic 9/26
Duel of Angels- Chicago- Blackstone 9/19
Fiorello!- Chicago- 9/19
Flower Drum Song- Denver Auditorium 9/27
Invitation to a March-Detroit-Cass 9/26
Majority of One- Chicago, Erlanger 9/26
Raisin in the Sub- Boston, Wilbur 9/19
World of Suzie Wong- Pittsburgh, Nixon- 9/19





FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

Men in White-Broadhurst 9/26/33. 311 performances. 6 pro- Times, Herald Tribune, News, Journal, Sun, World Telegram- and 2 con- Post, American- filed on new play by Sidney S. Kingsley presented by the Group Theatre, Sidney Harmon & James Ullman, staged by Lee Strasberg, settings by Mordecai Gorelik with Luther Adler, J Edward Bromberg, Alexander Kirkland, Morris Carnovsky, Russell Collins, Margaret Barker and Phoebe Brand. Stage manager Elia Kazan played a small role, as did Clifford Odets and Robert Lewis. This first dramatic hit of the season opened the same week as Sailor Beware, and was the first financial success of the two year old Group Theatre. Originally titled Crisis Kingsley's first drama was rehearsed for a full three month's at Green Mansions, Warrensburg, NY summer resort where the full cast and staff of the Group were employed for the summer presenting one performance weekly of a new play. Though aisle-sitters split widely on the merits of the script, all raved over the fine ensemble playing and the unusual representative set. During the run of the play Carnovsky and Collins left for a brief time to appear in the Group's short run Gentlewoman and then returned to the hit. Ticket prices in 1933 for the Pulitzer Prize winner were scaled from 50c to \$2.50.

Times-Brooks Atkinson- Production represents theatre fully aware of its varied arts, Group has play worthy of their ambition and adorned it with the most beguiling acting the town affords.

Herald Tribune-Percy Hammond- Serious and gripping new drama, Group one of the drama's major promises. Play is honest, tricky, propaganda show that can be attended without a sacrifice of intelligence.

News- Burns Mantle- The urge is strong to do considerable cheering, as perfect a job of play presentation as it is given producing units to achieve, as absorbing a play as you are likely to come upon.

American- Gilbert Gabriel- Remains an intensely phoney play and an intensely harrowing play which might have been successful if ingredients were more judiciously mixed, the prescription more suavely written. But is just about as much second rate "Grand Hotel" under ether.

Journal- John Anderson- Serious minded, intelligently written study truer to melodrama than life, presenting faintly preposterous story. Excellent casting job.

Evening Post- John Mason Brown- Not much of play, resembles some old hokum film script. If not for excellent production play itself would be as dead as some of the patients. Suspect that no playhouse is proper size for it, belongs in Bellevue.

World Telegram-Robert Garland- Cannily cast, expertly directed, imaginatively backgrounded. Piece is professional in every meaning of the world. Urge all producers to study and learn what can be accomplished by combining simplicity, intelligence and love for what one's doing.

Sun- Richard Lockridge- Hymn of praise, vigorous and exciting drama. Excellent production from sets to acting, a challenging play that should be seen.



LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Tom Poston to star in The Hero new musical comedy due Jan 5 at ANTA... Virginia Gilmore to co-star with Henry Fonda in Critic's Choice due Dec 14 ... Nancy R Pollock added to Period of Adjustment... Nora O'Mahony joined Little Moon of Alban... George Brenlin to be featured in Drums Under the Window... Julie Follansbee to play lead in Epitaph for George Dillon due Off Broadway in late Oct... Alice Scott replaced Kathleen Murray in title role of Leave It to Jane.

NY "PLAY OF WEEK": WNTA-TV schedule includes week of Sept 26: Henry IV Part 1, Oct 3- The Dybbuk, Oct 10- Legend of Lovers, Oct 17 The Velvet Glove. Recently completed tapes are My Heart's in the Highlands and The Iceman Cometh.



LONDON STAGE VIEWS

"Showboat" touring company on a former cargo boat sounds like a wonderful idea for both players and audience, comments British "Stage" magazine. In these days when it costs a fortune to build even the smallest brick and mortar playhouse, the idea of using a ship as a theatre is well worth examining as a means of replacing out of date houses.

Audiences would be attracted to a showboat moored in the Pool of London, British trade weekly states, or in the dock of a busy port or in the estuary town on one of the less commercial rivers. They would enjoy the new experience of seeing a play under unfamiliar conditions and pacing the deck during the intermissions.

Touring for the players would be comparatively easy, and wear and tear on costumes and scenery would be reduced to a minimum. No longer would actors have to worry about finding decent room and board while on tour.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

CRITIC AT WORK... Drama reviewers should probably start each new season by making some good resolutions, but Watts, Post, suspects his readers will be getting pretty much the mixture as before. One difficulty in reviewing is that there are so few adjectives expressive of praise. His defense of the cliché is that its frank use can often be more accurate and less strained than a frantic striving to avoid it. Most reviewers are at their weakest when describing performances and staging, Kerr, Herald Tribune, being the exception. Watts is convinced that he knows as much as anyone about the excellence or lack thereof of an actor's portrayal, but sadly confesses great difficulty in being articulate in print when he tries to describe it. . . McClain, Journal American, thinks a reviewer is a fool to assign directorial kudos when it is undeserved. The best direction is the most unostentatious and where it begins and ends is a matter that a critic is in no position to judge.

COLUMN TIPS... NY ticket speculators are in a panic over the Shuberts' new ticket system, which could put them out of business, reports Kilgallen, Journal American. . . Camelot sold out from its Nov 19 opening through June, notes Wilson, Post. . . \$50 per ticket is asking price for spare tickets to Unsinkable Molly Brown in Philadelphia tryout hears Winchell, Mirror

ACTORS' MASK... First three decidedly different entertainments of the NY season in one way or another hovered the memory of the stylized mask, concluded Kerr, Herald Tribune. Marcel Marceau, H. M. S. Pinafore and Sign of Jonah each used this stage device of the universal face. This encouraged critic who had wondered if perhaps Western dramatists and actors had not become too private and too special.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Michael Myerberg, owner of the Atkinson Theatre, might consider changing name of his place yearly, naming it each season in honor of the critic who wrote the most rave notices, suggests Watt, News. . . Coleman, Mirror, can't understand why Griffith & Prince did not acquire "Girl on a Wing" new book published by Random House on airline hostess training for a forthcoming Broadway musical before Hollywood buys it.

7 30 PM CURTAIN... The Wed early curtains are welcome like a hole-in-the-head to the big midtown eating spots, adds Sobol, Journal American. They clair their dinner business is hard hit because of the early dining hour, and that what business comes in after the final curtain doesn't make up the loss.

DRAMA MAIL... Why are so many theatre box-office men so rude asks a Times reader. . . God bless Brooks Atkinson, states another Times letter-writer. After a successful career as a critic he is now trying to push the US people out of their complacency with his new series of articles.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... J.B. original cast stereo-album (RCA Victor) recommended by Kupferberg, Herald Tribune, as a fascinating listening experience. There is no doubt that stereo heightens the impact and tightens the drama of the work, the sound effects are so sharp and real that they don't seem like effects at all.

The Hostage is exciting theatre on half a dozen levels, presented by an outstanding repertory trained cast. It is a wild and funny comedy, a topical musical revue, a serious war drama, a political commentary on the 20th century, a mad take off on avant-garde phonies. The beautifully written, directed and acted portrayals by the English cast constitute ensemble playing at its best. The jolts of sudden barbs at a long range of topics, British and American, show Behan as an alert social commentator underneath his vaudeville routine construction.

The World of Carl Sandberg is itself a vastly over-produced reading of many beautiful, interesting poems, humorous songs and historical sketches. Taken by themselves they would have probably made an interesting evening of readings. But the elongated introductions, often longer than the work under discussion, the continual shifting of lights and the squirming of the three players in swivel stools becomes very annoying. Highspot of the second evening's performance was the standing ovation the audience gave to Sandberg at the final curtain. The author held the attention of the entire audience who remained standing in the darkened house for a full fifteen minutes listening to his views on politics, film stars and assorted topics.

Here Come the Clowns is a lame attempt at Barry's super-dramatic allegory. Play which is three times more theatrical than recent J.B. inspired non-dramatic sermons is always interesting in its characterization, mystery and logic. But the cast wavers between complete understanding of certain dramatic scenes and complete confusion of many others. The former are very good, but the latter make up the majority of the evening.

Chekhov rewritten by popular poll is the startling news that the ending of A Country Scandal was changed after a poll of preview audiences showed they were dissatisfied with the on-stage death of the leading character. In the current version the leading character dies conveniently offstage. What this form of play writing, or play re-writing, might mean to the classics is frightening to even think about it. Dramatist's Guild will have to evolve some way of protecting their dead members also.

It would have been very unfair of the NY Park Commission to allow Fidel Castro to pitch a tent in Central Park when they had refused permission two summers ago to summer theatre producer St. John Terrell.

Though Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe play based on the experiences of Mr & Mrs Brooks Atkinson in Moscow during the war is destined for a Shubert house on West 45th St, it does seem fitting that this production should play at least its opening week at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

Microphones and loudspeakers both On and Off Broadway in the new shows this season seem aimed at crippling the audience. The Vintage '60 sound effects sounded like the stagehands were drilling for oil, while in most of the Off Broadway productions the loudspeakers are set at the top level for the entire evening.

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific critical details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town Tryout reviews.

"C"--Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"--Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety gross estimates of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap \$80--\$80-\$76 \$75- means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro-3 raves 100% B- Cap \$40--\$39 \$35 \$36 \$39 \$40
BYE BYE BIRDIE Beck \$8.60 4/14/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58
FIORIELLO Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 43 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap \$58- \$58 \$56 \$58 \$59 \$58
FIVE FINGER EXERCISE Music Box \$7.50 12/2/59	245 W 45 CI 6-4636	90% C- 1 Con- News- 5 raves 40% B Cap \$40- \$15 \$15 <u>FINAL WEEK</u>
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 80% B- Cap \$64--\$51 \$44 \$45 \$50 \$51
HOSTAGE Cort \$7.50 9/20/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	60% C- 4 Pro-Trib, Post, Mir, WTS Cap \$40
LA PLUME Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 75% B- Cap \$45--\$36 \$32 \$34 \$38 \$34
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves- Times, WTS milder 100% B- Cap \$36--\$35 \$33 \$36 \$36 \$35 \$32
MUSIC MAN Majestic \$8.05 12/19/57	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 60% B- Cap \$70--\$40 \$36 \$43 \$34 \$45 \$41
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls 70% B- Cap \$70--\$54 \$50 \$55 \$59 \$57 \$53

SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 44 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$75--\$76 \$76 \$76 \$76 \$76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir 2 raves-News, WTS 85% B- Cap \$64--\$51 \$41 \$46 \$54 \$50
TENTH MAN Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves-Times, News 85% B- Cap \$32--\$26 \$23 \$23 \$26 \$27
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder 75% B- Cap \$49--\$27 \$26 Re-opened
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times J Am milder 70% B- Cap \$40--\$27 \$23 \$21 \$24 \$22
WEST SIDE STORY W Garden \$8.05 4/27/60	1674 Bway CI 5-4878	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 75% B- Cap \$64--\$42 \$44 \$46 \$45 \$44 \$44
WORLD CARL SANDBURG Miller \$7.50 9/14/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	60% C- 4 pro-Times, Trib, Post, J Am 50% B- Cap \$33--\$15

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Sept 30- CBS- Men in White on Show of Month with Lee J Cobb
 Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted on Show of Month
 Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
 Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
 Jan 8- CBS- "The Gershwin Years"
 Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of Fame

"CD" PROS & CONS

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Five Finger Exercise, Gypsy, Hostage
 La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Take Me Along
 Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic, West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Fantasticks, HMS Pinafore
 Krapps Last Tape, Leave it to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man, World of Carl Sandburg

Here Come Clowns, La Ronde, Sign of Jonah

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 GR 6800	6 Pro- No Mirror Sat to Thur- No Fris
DANCE OF DEATH Key \$3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro-Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib, No Mirror
HERE COME CLOWNS Actors Play \$4.60 9/19/60	100-7th Av S OR 5-1036	3 Pro- Times, Post, J Am 2 Con- H Trib, WTS
HMS Pinafore PHOENIX \$4.60 9/7/60	189-2nd Av OR 4-7160	7 Pro- Limited 5 week run
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.50 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All mild (no Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
SIGN OF JONAH Players \$3.90 9/8/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 con-1 pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Christopher's Wonders-Maidman 9/26	Open Up Your Heart- 11/10
Farewell, Farewell Eugene-Hayes 9/27	Taffy- 11/15
Greenwich Village USA- 1 Sher Sq 9/28	Under Yum Yum Tree- Miller 11/16
Irma La Douce- Plymouth 9/29	Advise & Consent- Cort 11/17
A Delightful Season-Gram Arts 9/29	Camelot- Majestic 11/19
Deep Are the Roots- St Marks 10/3	Tree Grows Bklyn-Bar Plaza 11/28
A Taste of Honey- Lyceum 10/4	All the Way Home-Belasco 11/30
Becket St James 10/6	Love & Libel- 11/30
Valmouth- York 10/6	Hedda Gabler- 4th St 11/?
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8	Donogoo- G Mews- 11/?
Laughs & Other Events-Barrym 10/10	
The Wall- Rose-10/11	Little Moon of Alban-Longacre 12/1
Kittiwake Island-Martique -10/12	Critic's Choice-Barrymore 12/14
Darwin's Theories- Mad Av 10/12	Wildcat- Alvin 12/15
Drums Under Window- C Lane 10/13	Do Re Mi-St James 12/26
Shoemaker & Poddler-East 74- 10/14	The Tiger Rag-T Marquee 12/?
Shepard on the Shelf-Blackfriars 10/14	
Tenderloin- 46th St 10/17	The Hero- ANTA 1/5
Face of a Hero- O'Neill 10/22	Rhinoceros- 1/5
49th Cousin- Ambassador 10/25	Showgirl- 1/14
Invitation to a March- M Box 10/26	Love & Death- 1/15
Laurette- Beck- 10/27	
Behind the Wall- Jan Hus- 10/31	I'm With You- 2/1
Provincetown Show-Provinc 10/?	13 Daughters- 2/9
	Comedie Francaise-C Center-2/21
She Stoops to Conquer-Phoenix 11/1	The Caretaker- Miller 2/?
Rape of the Belt- ANTA 11/2	Red Roses for Me G Mews 2/?
Kubla, Burr & Ollie-Astor Hotel 11/2	
Unsinkable Molly Brown-W Garden 11/3	
Mousetrap- Maidman- 11/5	



— \$25 check
 — Bill Co

Name.....Address.....
 Organization.....City, State.....

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE--now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--- college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc--published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out Of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956--\$25 each.

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